

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Their plan to pre-empt regular programming to air the anti-Kerry ad is a clearly partisan move. If they air this ad they must be required to also air the Michael Moore "Documentary" about George Bush in the same timeslot the following week. If Sinclair cannot be trusted to present unbiased reporting then perhaps it is time to PULL THE PLUG on their access to the nation's airwaves.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.